

nearly as long as the preceding, but small and acuminate; the first and third joints are white, the second is pitchy. Large thoracic segment twice as broad as long, very slightly narrowed in front, all the angles rounded, very pale yellow; disk with a large opaque white patch which is narrower and rounded in front, its posterior border nearly reaching the hind margin of the segment; the second and third segments very short, slightly narrower than the large anterior segment; the segments which follow become gradually longer, narrower, and more convex; the eighth segment is the narrowest; the ninth is scarcely broader; the tenth is narrow at the base, widened behind, with a slight callosity on the disk; the eleventh segment is very short and as wide as the sixth; the twelfth is triangular, rounded at the apex. The general colour of the body is dirty white."

*Note on Cossypha pyrrhopygia, Hartlaub.*

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.Z.S. &c.

During a recent rearrangement of the species of African Robin-Chats in the British Museum, I was surprised to find that a specimen of *Cossypha pyrrhopygia* in the collection was not a *Cossypha* but a *Cittocincla*, with graduated tail. On examining the history of the species, we find that it was first described by Dr. Hartlaub in his 'System der Ornithologie West-Afrika's' (p. 78), from the collection of the Comte de Riocour, with the doubtful habitat of West Africa. The specimen was shown to Dr. Hartlaub in Paris by M. Jules Verreaux; and about the same time another example was sold by the Maison Verreaux to the British Museum, with the locality "West Africa." I have, however, no doubt that neither of these specimens ever really came from West Africa; for the species is *Cittocincla luzoniensis* (Kittl.) from the Philippines. About the years 1855 and 1856 the localities of the specimens sold by the Maison Verreaux seem to have been most untrustworthy; for the British Museum was then victimized with the *Micrastur castanilius* of "New Granada," which is nothing more than *Astur macroscelides* of Western Africa (cf. Gurney, Ibis, 1875, p. 363). Nothing can be more annoying than to have apparently trustworthy species foisted upon science, and to find that, after having been incorporated in many standard works, they have to be expelled after a lapse of years from the fauna where they have found a place. I take the present opportunity of correcting an error into which I was unfortunately beguiled last year in a very similar way to that in which Dr. Hartlaub was led to describe *C. pyrrhopygia* as West-African. I described a bird as a new genus from Jamaica under the name of *Phenicomanes iora* (P. Z. S. 1874, p. 427, pl. liv.), which now turns out to be *Iora lafresnayi*, of Malacca. The specimen in question was sold to the Museum as from the identical collection in which a new *Todus* was contained; and I am convinced that the vendor acted in perfect good faith, as he was the first to point out to me, on his receiving a second specimen direct from Malacca, that there was probably some error in the Jamaican habitat of the previous example.